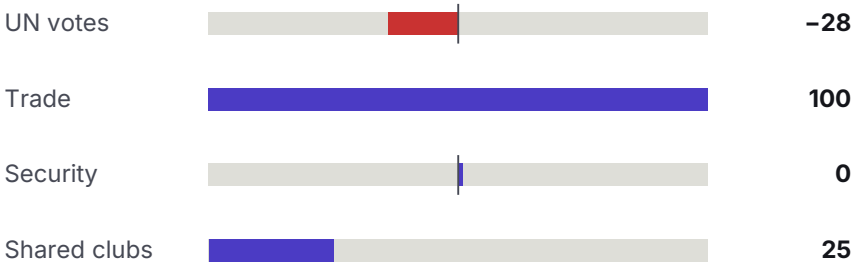
Philippines & China

Trade at its highest, far apart at the UN, and a dispute at sea.

+14

Neutral

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

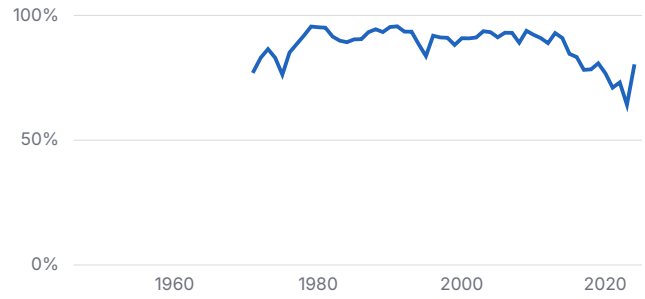


IN SHORT

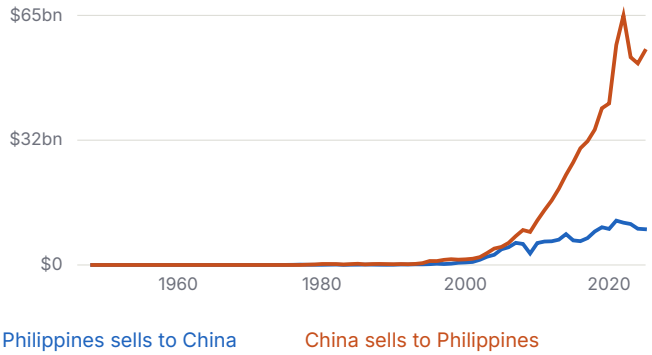
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the war in North Korea, South Korea, each supporting a side, most recently in 1953.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 72% (2022–2024), lower than either of them has with most countries.
- Trade in goods ($64 billion a year) is very important for the Philippines, much less so for China.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, the Philippines names China far more often than the reverse (87 sentences against 6).
- 28,000 people born in China live in the Philippines (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way

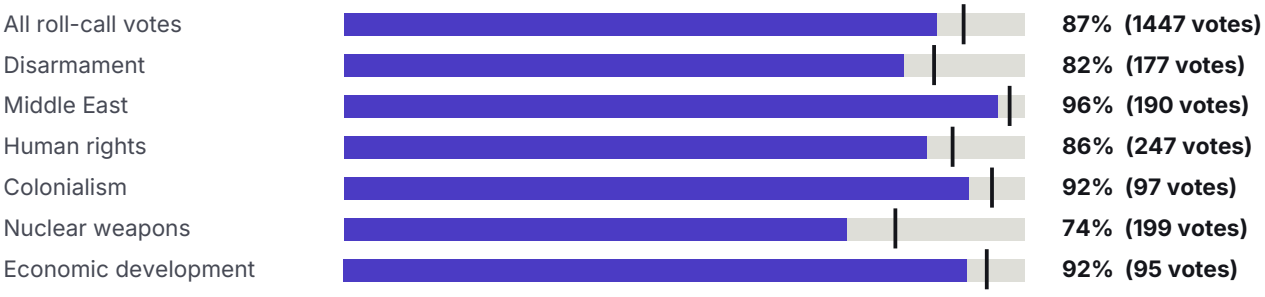


Goods exports each way (US dollars)



VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on Middle East (96% of votes the same), furthest apart on nuclear weapons (74%), against 87% on all votes since 2010.



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of the Philippines and China was 72% in 2022–2024. For the Philippines, China is the 43rd most distant voting partner out of 191; for China, the Philippines is the 95th most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $64 billion a year in 2023–2025: 30.0% of all the Philippines' trade and 1.3% of China's. China is the Philippines' largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, the Philippines has named China in 87 sentences of its General Debate speeches; China has named the Philippines in 6.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them supporting opposite sides of a third party's armed conflict (North Korea, South Korea, 1950–1953).
People	5,800 people born in the Philippines live in China and 28,000 born in China live in the Philippines (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 21 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	267 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±6 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

MOMENTS (EDITORIAL CONTEXT, NEVER PART OF A SCORE)

1950	Philippine troops fight in the Korean War, on the opposite side to China
1975	Diplomatic relations established
1995	China builds structures on Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands, also claimed by the Philippines
2012	Standoff at Scarborough Shoal, claimed by both; China has controlled access to it since
2016	An arbitral tribunal rules for the Philippines in the South China Sea case; China rejects the award
2023	Repeated confrontations at Second Thomas Shoal

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as

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